

CLAIMS

1. An intentional presence system comprising:

5 a transmitting device at a first physical location that is responsive to a command intentionally initiated by a first individual at said first physical location to develop a presence signal intended for a second individual at a second physical location; and

a receiving device located at said second physical location which is receptive to said presence signal and which is operative to generate an indication to said second individual of said first individual's presence with respect to said transmitting device.

10 2. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting device is a first transmitting device, said receiving device is a first receiving device, and said presence signal is a first presence signal, and further comprising:

15 a second transmitting device at said second physical location that is responsive to a command intentionally initiated by said second individual at said second physical location to develop a second presence signal intended for said first individual at said first physical location; and

20 a second receiving device located at said first physical location which is receptive to said second presence signal and which is operative to generate an indication to said first individual of said second individual's presence with respect to said second transmitting device.

25 3. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said presence signal is intended for a multiplicity of individuals, and wherein said receiving device is one of a multiplicity of receiving devices associated with said multiplicity of individuals.

4. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said presence signal includes a data packet including an identifier of said second individual.

5. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 4 wherein said receiving device is operative to receive said data packet to generate said indication of said first individual's presence.

5 6. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting device develops a signal indicating that said presence signal has been transmitted.

10 7. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 2 wherein said second transmitting device transmits an acknowledgement to said second receiving device upon receipt of said first presence signal by said first receiving device.

15 8. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 7 wherein said second receiving device is operative to develop a confirmation signal that said first presence signal has been received by said first receiving device.

9. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 8 wherein said confirmation signal is automatically generated.

20 10. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 8 wherein said confirmation signal is intentionally initiated by said second individual.

25 11. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said indication generated by said receiving device is selected from the group of auditory, visual, tactile, haptic, motion, and heated displays.

12. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 11 wherein said receiving device is embedded within an object having a meaning to said first individual and said second individual.

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13. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 12 wherein said object is a representational figure.

5 14. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 11 wherein said auditory display includes a spoken output by said receiving device.

15. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 11 wherein said motion display includes the physical movement of part or all of an object.

10 16. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 11 wherein said visual display includes a lamp.

15 17. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 16 wherein said lamp is capable of displaying a multiplicity of visual appearances.

18. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 15 wherein said transmitting device include a telephone, and wherein said receiving device includes a pager receiver.

20 19. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting device includes a frame comprising an intentional initiation switch.

25 20. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 19 wherein said frame is touch-sensitive.

21. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 19 wherein said frame includes at least one switch.

22. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting device can send a message pointer selected by said first individual from a group of predefined message pointers.

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23. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 22 wherein a user can modify a group of audio messages that can be selected by said message pointers.

24. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 23 wherein the receipt
10 of said message pointer causes the playing of a selected audio message.

25. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting device and said receiving device are matched pairs which only communicate with each other.

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26. An intentional presence system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting device and said receiving device are part of a closed group which may include a multiplicity of transmitting devices and receiving devices and which are possessed by a social group.

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27. A method for intentionally signaling a presence comprising:

transmitting from a first physical location in response to a command intentionally initiated by a first individual at said first physical location a presence signal intended for a second individual at a second physical location; and

25 receiving at said second physical said presence signal and generating an indication to said second individual of said first individual's presence.

28. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 27 further comprising:

transmitting from said second physical location in response to a command intentionally initiated by said second individual at said second physical location a second
5 presence signal intended for said first individual at said first physical location; and

receiving at said first physical location said second presence signal and generating an indication to said first individual of said second individual's presence.

29. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 27
10 wherein said presence signal is intended for a multiplicity of individuals, and further comprising receiving said presence signal by said multiplicity of individuals.

30. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 27
15 wherein said presence signal includes a data packet including an identifier of said second individual.

31. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 30 wherein receiving said presence signal includes decoding said data packet.

20 32. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 27 further comprising generating a signal for said first individual that said presence signal has been transmitted.

25 33. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 28 further comprising generating a signal for said first individual that said presence signal has been received by said second individual.

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34. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 27 wherein said indication is selected from the group of auditory, tactile, haptic, motion, and heated displays.

5 35. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 34 wherein said auditory display includes a spoken output.

36. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 34 wherein said motion display includes the physical movement of part or all of an object.

10 37. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 36 wherein said transmitting device include a telephone, and wherein said receiving device includes a pager receiver.

15 38. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 27 wherein said transmitting is initiated by a frame capable of framing an image.

39. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 38 wherein said transmitting is initiated by touching said frame.

20 40. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 38 wherein said transmitting is initiated by pressing a switch on said frame.

25 41. A method for intentionally signaling a presence as recited in claim 38 further comprising displaying an image within said frame.

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